



LACLJ is pleased to announce that The Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation has selected LACLJ and pro bono volunteer [Michael Holecek](#) as one of its 2017 HALO Award winners! The HALO Award comes with a grant to support LACLJ's volunteer program and a personal award to Michael in honor of his exemplary volunteer service.

Over the last five years, Michael has done an outstanding job providing pro bono assistance to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and has become a lead appellate volunteer attorney for LACLJ.

Michael's appellate work helped a survivor named Beverly who was a high school senior when she entered an abusive relationship. After a few months of dating her boyfriend, Beverly became pregnant. The abuse continued and Beverly gave birth prematurely.

Fearing for her safety and the safety of her baby, Beverly applied for a domestic violence restraining order against her ex-boyfriend. Beverly was initially granted a temporary protective order, but it was subsequently dismissed. The court incorrectly ruled that Beverly did not need protection because she had waited five months since the last instance of physical abuse to apply for a restraining order.

**Through LACLJ, Beverly obtained Michael's pro bono services to appeal the decision in order to receive the protection she needed for herself and her child.** Michael won the case, and the Court of Appeal overturned the ruling, giving Beverly the restraining order she deserved.

**This outcome was not only significant for Beverly, but for survivors throughout California.** The Court of Appeal's decision sets a new, binding legal precedent that will help survivors throughout the state. As a result of Michael's efforts, California law has been changed to make our state safer for survivors and their children.

**Are you interested in helping survivors like Beverly?** LACLJ's pro bono program pairs pro bono attorneys with survivors of domestic and sexual violence seeking restraining orders against their abusers. For more information and to volunteer, please click on the below. Thank you for supporting LACLJ!

**Volunteer with LACLJ!**

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